

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,
and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A secure electronic entity including means adapted to store data relating to one or more objects, said secure electronic entity further includes:

measuring means for measuring a time that has elapsed from a reference time associated with said object,

storage means for storing a lifespan assigned to said object, the storage means co-operating with the time measuring means to compare the elapsed time and said lifespan, and

updating and invalidation means for updating said lifespan of the object or to render the object temporarily or permanently unusable ~~when-upon~~ a result of said comparison is being that the elapsed time has reached or passed the lifespan.

2. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to Claim 1, wherein said lifespan corresponds to a total time of real use of the object.

3. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to Claim 1, wherein said lifespan is a time period independent of a total time of real use of the object.

4. (currently amended) The secure electronic entity according to Claim 1, wherein the time measuring means are adapted to provide a measurement of the time that has elapsed since the reference time ~~when-upon~~ the electronic entity ~~is-not~~ being supplied with power by an external power supply.

5. (currently amended) The secure electronic entity according to Claim 2, wherein the time measuring means are adapted to supply a measurement of the time that has elapsed since the reference time ~~when-upon~~ the electronic entity ~~is-not~~ being supplied with electrical power.

6. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to claim 1, wherein the time measuring means are adapted to supply a measurement of the time that has elapsed since the reference time independently of any external clock signal.

7. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to claim 1, wherein the time measuring means include means for comparing two times of day.

8. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to claim 1, wherein the means for storing the lifespan include another secure entity and are situated inside or outside said secure electronic entity.

9. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to claim 1, wherein the object is an operating system, a secret code, a file, a file system, an application or access rights.

10. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to claim 1, wherein the reference time is a time of day of creation of the object.

11. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to claim 1, further comprising one or more subsystems comprising:

- a capacitive component subject to leakage across adielectric space of the capacitive component, means being provided for coupling said capacitive component to an electrical power supply to be charged by said electrical power supply, and

- means for measuring a residual charge in the capacitive component, said residual charge being at least in part representative of the time that has elapsed since the capacitive component was decoupled from the electrical power supply.

12. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to claim 11, wherein said means for measuring the residual charge are included in said time measuring means.

13. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to Claim 11, wherein the capacitive component is a metal oxide semiconductor (MOS) capacitor whose dielectric space consists of a silicon oxide.

14. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to Claim 11, wherein the means for measuring the residual charge comprise a field-effect transistor having an insulative layer, the capacitive component includes an insulative layer, and a thickness of the insulative layer of the field-effect transistor is significantly greater than a thickness of the insulative layer of the capacitive component.

15. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to claim 14, wherein the thickness of the insulative layer of the capacitive component is from 4 to 10 nanometers.

16. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to Claim 13, further including: at least two subsystems each comprising:

- a capacitive component subject to leakage across a dielectric space of said capacitive component,

- means enabling said capacitive component to be coupled to an electrical power supply in order to be charged by said electrical power supply, and

- means for measuring the residual charge in the capacitive component, said residual charge being at least in part representative of the time which has elapsed after the capacitive component was decoupled from the electrical power supply, said subsystems comprising capacitive components having different leaks across respective dielectric spaces of said capacitive components, and said secure electronic entity further including means for processing respective measured residual charges in said capacitive components to extract from said measurements information substantially independent of heat input to said entity during the time that has elapsed since the reference time.

17. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to claim 16, wherein said processing means include software for calculating a predetermined function for determining said information as a function of said measurements and substantially independently of heat input.

18. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to claim 1, configured as a microcircuit card.

19. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to claim 1, configured as a Personal Computer Memory Card International Architecture (PCMCIA) card.

20. (previously presented) The secure electronic entity according to Claim 12, wherein the capacitive component is a metal oxide semiconductor (MOS) capacitor whose dielectric space consists of a silicon oxide.

21. (currently amended) A secure electronic entity including:

means adapted to store data relating to one or more objects;

measuring means for measuring a time that has elapsed from a reference time associated with said object;

storage means for storing a lifespan assigned to said object, the storage means co-operating with the time measuring means to compare the elapsed time and said lifespan; and

updating and invalidation means for updating said lifespan of the object ~~when-upon~~ a result of said comparison is being that the elapsed time has reached or passed the lifespan.

22. (previously presented) These secure electronic entity according to claim 1, configured as a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card.